



STEPHENVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

INTERNET AND COMPUTER USE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Stephenville Public Library's goal is to meet the informational, recreational, cultural, and educational needs of all members of the community it serves, in a variety of formats. To expand our goal, we offer computers with Internet access to link the community to the world of information.

Consistent with the Stephenville Public Library's adherence to the Texas Library Association's "Intellectual Freedom Statement," the American Library Association's "Library Bill of Rights," "Freedom to Read Statement," and "Statement of Professional Ethics," the use of the Internet will not be denied to any patron.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF USERS

1. The Library has no control over the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. The Internet is an unregulated, global medium, and while offering access to a wealth of personally, professionally, and culturally enriching material, it also enables access to some materials that may be offensive or disturbing to some individuals. The Library is not responsible for the accuracy, authority, currency, reliability, or appropriateness of information found through the use of the Internet. As with printed information sources and other electronic sources, not all sources accessed through the Internet are accurate, complete, or current and patrons must evaluate the sources and question their validity for themselves.
2. It is the responsibility of legal guardians to decide what Library resources are appropriate for their children. There may be some resources on the Internet that a guardian may feel are inappropriate for their children. Guardians should supervise their children's Internet sessions and let them know what resources they do not want them to use.
3. U.S. Copyright law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction or distribution of copyright materials, except as permitted by the principles of "fair use." Users may not distribute electronic materials (including images, text programs, and data) without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. Responsible use includes making only authorized copies of the copyrighted or licensed software or data. All responsibility for the consequences of copyright infringement rest with the user. The Library expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility resulting from such use.

RULES FOR USE

1. Patrons must be at least 18 years old. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a guardian when using the computers. Children over 12 must be issued an internet card with the permission of a guardian. Guardians initiating cards or usage for children under 18 must have a valid library membership.



2. Patrons must have a current library card and sign in at the circulation desk before using a computer.
3. Patrons shall be financially responsible for any harm done to the computers. Guardians shall be financially responsible for any harm done by their children.
4. Patrons may register to use a computer for 30 minutes. If no one is waiting they may continue to use the computer. If someone else wants to use the computer for an extended time, the current user **MUST** leave and allow the other person to use the computer. Anyone reserving the computer will lose their time if they are five minutes late. Equipment or power failure will cancel all reservations. The Library is not liable or responsible to patrons for equipment, Internet connection, or power failure.
5. Printing is allowed, and paper will be supplied for 15 cents a sheet. The patron must be aware of the length of the document before printing as some documents can be extensive.
6. Downloading to an external media device such as a flash drive is allowed. Saving and downloading to the computer is **NOT** allowed. Since viruses can be on the Internet, patrons should use a virus checker on their home computers when using these drives. The Library cannot be responsible for any drive damage or loss of information that may occur from the use of the Library's computers.
7. Misuse of the Library's hardware or software, or using software not authorized by the Library is not allowed. Misuse includes but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Saving personal files to the hard drive.
 - b. Purposefully introducing a virus into a Library computer.
 - c. Attempting to circumvent the Library's computer security.
 - d. Duplicating copyrighted software from the Library's computer.
 - e. Harassing or disturbing other patrons.
8. Patrons must respect the privacy and sensibilities of other patrons and may not send, receive or display text or graphics which may reasonably be construed as obscene.